This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously amended) A method for controlling connections in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

setting up a signaling connection between a subscriber of the communication network and a service access system based on a service connection request by the subscriber; and

intermittently setting up a payload connection associated with the signaling connection between the service access system and the subscriber only when there is data traffic for a service and clearing down the payload connection after the data transmission,

wherein the signaling connection and the payload connection are maintained simultaneously during the data transmission.

7. (Previously added) The method of claim 6, wherein the service is at least one of a voice or a data service.

8. (Previously added) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

charging a service by the communication network for a time interval in which the signaling connection and the payload connection simultaneously exist for the service.

9. (Previously added) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of clearing down the payload connection does not occur immediately after the end of data transmission but occurs immediately before the expiration of the time interval already charged.

10. (Previously amended) A method for controlling service connections in a communication network in order to support access to a service via the communication network, comprising the steps of:

initiating the setup of a service-related signaling connection between a subscriber and a service access system;

intermittently initiating the setup of a payload connection between the service access system and the subscriber associated with the signaling connection only when there is data traffic and initiating the cleardown of the payload connection after data transmission,

wherein the signaling connection and the payload connection are maintained simultaneously during the data transmission.

11. (Previously added) A method for connecting a subscriber to a service provider over a communications network, comprising:

maintaining a first connection between a subscriber and a service provider while the subscriber is connected to the service provider; and

intermittently setting up a second connection between the subscriber and the service provider when transmitting data between the subscriber and the service provider,

wherein the first and second connections are associated together.

12. (Previously added) The method of claim 11, wherein the first connection is to a point of presence server of an Internet service provider over a D-channel.

13. (Previously added) The method of claim 11, wherein the second connection is a B-channel connection.

14. (Previously added) The method of claim 11, further comprising

charging for service by the service provider for each time interval in which the second connection is intermittently set up.

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising

clearing down the second connection after the end of data transmission and when the time interval has already been charged.

16. ((Previously added)) The method of claim 6, wherein the intermittently setting up of the payload connection occurs only given data traffic.

17. (Previously added) The method of claim 10, wherein the intermittently setting up of the payload connection occurs only given data traffic.

18. (Previously added) The method of claim 11, wherein the intermittently setting up of the payload connection occurs only given data traffic.